Private Investment in Railways

2863. PROF.ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry are considering plans not only to operate passenger trains but also construct and own locomotives, coaches and tracks by private players in the country;

(b) if so, whether Railways is studying investment models for train operations in other countries and has decided to adopt operations system of Sweden; and

(c) if so, by when final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRi R. VELU): (a) There is no plan to permit transportation/running of passenger trains by the private sector. However, some commercial activities concerning passenger trains can be permitted to be undertaken by the private sector. There is no plan to ailow ownership of locomotives and tracks as of now, by the private sector for passenger train operations on the Indian Railway network. However, tourist passenger coaches can be jointly owned. It has been decided to explore the feasibility of setting up manufacturing units for locomotives and coaches in a Joint Venture involving private sector.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Unmanned level crossing in Madhya Pradesh

†2864. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of unmanned level crossings in the country and its number in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the total number of accident taken place at the said level crossings in the State of Madhya Pradesh and the total number of persons killed in these accidents;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.